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Martin Mooney (b. 1960)

'I've been working more expressively than previously and feel this is a significant turning point in my career. I've discovered that a greater use of colour has led to a stronger sense of light in the paintings.'

Martin Mooney was born in Belfast. He is a graduate of University of Ulster (1979), holds a B.A. from Brighton Polytechnic College of Art and Design and Masters from UCL, Slade School of Fine Art, London.

His extensive formal training is apparent in his balanced, strong compositions, and fine detail. Glaze after glaze his paintings are rich with texture and depth, commanding a level of perspective that is both unconventional yet striking. His still life's are often reminiscent of the eighteenth and seventeenth century Flemish and Dutch Old Masters. Yet he has a dual style, exhibiting precision and looser expressive stroke. In both of his styles there is originality and a unique sense of intimacy which belongs to Mooney alone.

Martin's landscapes in the past were informed by his absorption in plein air composition which very finely augments the sense of atmosphere and presence in his work. Today his skies are central, and intensely alive with flushes of colour, amid the layered clouds and muted blues, verging on abstraction, it is Martin's new relationship with colour and form. His method of applying the paint with the knife and big bold industrious brushes, creates a vigorous engagement of the image. Martin has set out to reinterpret the Irish landscape for a new generation, at the same time, retaining his relationship with form whilst exploring atmosphere and mood with a new sense of fluidity, playfulness and freedom.

Mooney was selected by late art historian and much vaunted critic Brian Sewell as one of the ten most promising young artists in Britain.

Swell began to appreciate and eulogize Martin's very distinctive response to contemporary art trends (or even non trends), it simply mirrored what Martin's tutors and professors at Slade had also found. Brian stated it was "a revolt against the bucket and slosh brigade, against the kind of artist where painting is entirely abstract but entirely accidental.



It is almost like a new form of neo-classicism".

Further recognition came with the Richard Ford Award from the Royal Academy in 1985 and the George Campbell Memorial Grant in 1987.

With the support of the Arts Council, in collaboration with The Spanish Cultural Institute, Martin was able to establish a studio in Barcelona where he lived and worked for eight years.

He was recognised as Adams Salesroom Artist of the Future Award in the RHA in 1992.

Equally important however is that Martin's recognition is also borne out in the real world of art gallery sales and auction room results.

Between the years of 1988 and 2011, Martin held many solo exhibitions, in London and Dublin, with Offer Waterman at Waterman Fine Art, The Portland Gallery, London and The Solomon Gallery, Dublin.

By 2007, he had an unprecedented sale in James Adam's Auction Rooms in Dublin Martin sold 73 of the 75 pieces available on the night, even before the show opened.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Solo

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| 2019 | Color and Light, Charles Gilmore, Belfast, NI |
| 2019 | The Sol Gallery, Dublin, Ireland |
| 2015 | Glenarm Castle, Glenarm, County Antrim, NI |
| 2011 | Portland Gallery, London, UK |
| 2010 | Ava Gallery, Clondeboye, NI |

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2008	Portland Gallery, London, UK		Kildare Hotel & Country Club
2007	James Adams, Dublin, Ireland		The Westbury Hotel Dublin
2006	Portland Gallery, London, UK		USA Harvard University
2005	Portland Gallery, International Art & Design Fair, New York, USA		Paul Mellon Collection
2005	AVA Gallery, Clondeboye, NI		Yale Center for British Art
2004	Portland Gallery, London, UK		UK Paul Mellon Collection
2003	Portland Gallery, Art London, UK		Glaxo plc
2002	Solomon Gallery, Dublin, Ireland		RTZ Plc
2000	Solomon Gallery, Dublin, Ireland		WH Smith, London
1999	Waterman Fine Art, London, UK		Deacon Barclays, de Zoete, Wedd, Toronto
1998	Solomon Gallery, Dublin, Ireland		Delta Airlines
1997	Waterman Fine Art, London, UK		Doyle Hotel Group
1996	Solomon Gallery, Dublin, Ireland		Durban Museum, South Africa
1995	Waterman Fine Art, London, UK		Elan Corporation Ltd
1994	Solomon Gallery, Dublin, Ireland		Galgorm Castle Hotel
1994	Mitchell Gallery, Toronto, Canada		International Investment & Underwriting Ltd
1993	Waterman Fine Art, London, UK		Mrs Norma Smurfit
1992	Solomon Gallery, Dublin, Ireland		Jefferson Smurfit Group plc
1991	Minerva Galleria D'Art, Barcelona, Spain		Marfield House Hotel
1990	Solomon Gallery, Dublin, Ireland		Ulster Bank Group
1988	Solomon Gallery, London, UK		Ulster Museum Belfast
1988	On the Wall Gallery, Belfast, NI		Waterford Wedgwood plc

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Private Collections

Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Ireland, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA

King Charles III
Sir Anthony and Lady Chryss O'Reilly
The Rt Hon Christopher Patten
Dr Michael Smurfit
Mrs Norma Smurfit
Mr Dermot Desmond
Viscount and Viscountess Dunluce
Enya

Corporate

IRL AIB Bank
Arthur Cox & Co Solrs
Arts Council Collection
British Government Art Collection
Citibank NA
Goodbody Stockbrokers, Dublin
Merrion Hotel, Dublin
Irish Intercontinental Bank

AWARDS

2018	Loan exhibition Hillsborough Castle Northern Ireland
2017	Completed commission of 12 paintings for house in Merrion Square.
2003	Appointed official artist for King Charles III (HRH The Prince of Wales as he was then known as) Royal Tour of Russia
2001	Appointed official artist for King Charles III (HRH The Prince of Wales as he was then known as) Royal Tour of the Baltic States
1997	Completed ten large paintings for the Merrion Hotel, Dublin
1992	Adams Salesrooms Choice of Artist for Future Appreciation Award, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin
1987	George Campbell Memorial Grant, Arts Council of Ireland, Arts of Northern Ireland and the Spanish Cultural Institute, Dublin
1985	Richard Ford Award, The Royal Academy, London
1983	Emily Lucy Boyce Travel Scholarship, Brighton Faculty of Art, UK

SELECTED PRESS

- 2022 Scaling up, Aidan Dunne, Irish Arts Review, Vol 39. No 4
- 2019 The authentic Sonia Sheil and Martin Mooney, 12 years later, Aidan Dunne, Irish Times, Apr 23
- 2019 Renowed artist Martin Mooney lauches exhibition in home city, Joanne Savage, Newsletter. Co UK, Oct 24
- 2019 Meet the west-born Belfast artist commissioned to accompany Prince Charles on official royal tours and whose paintings hang on the walls of Ireland's rich and famous, Linda Stewart, Belfast Telegraph, Nov 13
- 2008 Major Dublin art fixture calls it a day after nearly three decades; Muse: Suzanne MacDougald. Daily Mail (London) August 11
- 2005 Architectural Observations, Aidan Dunne, The Irish Nov 25
- 2002 Light in the limelight, Aidan Dunne, The Irish Times May 1
- 2002 Belfast Artist helps keep Prince's Trip in the picture, Fiona Mc Ilwaine Biggins, Belfast Telegraph April 23
- 2001 World of Hibernia, Aidan Dunne March 22
- 1999 Martin Mooney Masterclass influences of Past masters, Julian Halsby, Interview, The Artist Magazine, Oct
- 1996 Martin Mooney Solomon Gallery Brian Fallon, The Irish Times May 8
- 1990 Taking on the bucket and slosh brigade, The Irish Times, April 30
- 1988 Colin Gleadell, Belfast Telegraph Features Editor, Galleries Magazine